

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A piezoelectric oscillator which comprises a piezoelectric vibrator provided with a piezoelectric element for excitation at a predetermined frequency, and a signal inverting amplifier for supplying current to the piezoelectric element to excite it, characterized in that:

an output terminal of the signal inverting amplifier having its input and output interconnected via a high resistance is grounded via a series connection of a capacitance and a parallel tuning circuit; the connection point of the capacitance and the parallel tuning circuit is grounded via a diode clamping circuit and is connected to an input terminal of the signal inverting amplifier via two series-connected capacitances; and the connection point of the two series-connected capacitances is grounded via the piezoelectric vibrator and a frequency adjusting element.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A piezoelectric oscillator which comprises a piezoelectric vibrator provided with a piezoelectric element for excitation at a predetermined frequency, and a signal inverting amplifier for supplying current to the piezoelectric element to excite it, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

an output terminal of the signal inverting amplifier is grounded via a series connection of a capacitance and a parallel tuning circuit;

the connection point of the capacitance and the parallel tuning circuit is connected to an input terminal of the signal inverting amplifier via two series-connected capacitances, and the connection point of the two series-connected capacitances is grounded via the piezoelectric vibrator and a frequency adjusting element.

Claim 3 (original): The piezoelectric oscillator of claim 1, characterized in that the diode clamping circuit is formed by a parallel circuit of two diodes connected in opposite polarities.

Claim 4 (original): The piezoelectric oscillator of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, as viewed from the connection point of the two series-connected capacitances, one of the two capacitances and the parallel tuning circuit constitute a series resonance circuit.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The piezoelectric oscillator of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[to 4]]~~ or 2, characterized in that the piezoelectric vibrator is a crystal vibrator.